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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,193	09/04/2001	Hideaki Yamanaka	110538	1200
25944	7590 04/05/2004		EXAM	INER
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			RICKMAN, HOLLY C	
P.O. BOX 19928				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	ŕ		1773	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Application No. Applicant(s) YAMANAKA ET AL. Examiner		•	no O				
Examiner		Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Holly Rickman		09/944,193	YAMANAKA ET AL.				
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address → Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extractions to the many be available under the privation of 3° CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be limitly filled Extraction for reply specified above is less than thiny (30) days, a reply whith the stabulary minimum of thiny (30) days, will be considered timely. If the pond for reply specified above is the seam statistary private diagosy and will septe 50% (10) MOTHS for the replicit place of this communication. False is many will not be off or distriction from the mailting date of this communication, reply will not be dated the private many and the control of the communication. False is many will not be off or distriction from the mailting date of this communication, reven if threely field, they reduce any examination them adjustment. See 3° CFR 1.704(1). Status 1)⊗ Responsive to communication(s) filled on 2/6/04 & 3/3/04. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b)⊗ This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4)⊗ Claim(s) 1-13,24,26,28,29 and 31 is/are pending in the application. 4)Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5)□ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6)⊗ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8)□ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8)□ Claim(s) is/are objected to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.65(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.65(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
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Application/Control Number: 09/944,193

Art Unit: 1773

DETAILED ACTION

1. The finality of the Office action mailed 11/16/2003 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference to Umeda et al. and Applicant's perfection of the foreign priority dates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. The rejection of claims 1-13, 24, 26, 28-29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inomata et al. (US 6623875) is withdrawn in view of Applicant's submission of certified translations of the foreign priority documents.
- 4. Claims 1-13, 24, 26, 28-29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda et al. (US 6645646).

Umeda et al. disclose a magnetic recording medium having a ferromagnetic layer, a non-magnetic coupling layer, and a magnetic layer wherein a magnetic bonding layer is provided between the magnetic layer and the coupling layer and/or between the ferromagnetic layer and the coupling layer (see abstract). The reference teaches that the magnetic bonding layer has a Co or Fe concentration that is higher than that of the ferromagnetic layer and the magnetic layer

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(col. 4, lines 4-37). The reference is silent with regard to the use of a bonding layer which contains 62-83 at% Co as claimed.

Umeda et al. teach that the relative concentration of Co or Fe in the bonding layer to that in the magnetic and ferromagnetic layers affects exchange coupling between the ferromagnetic and magnetic layers and ultimately affects thermal stability (col. 11, lines 25-28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to optimize the amount of Co or Fe in the bonding layers taught by Umeda et al. since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Response to Arguments

- 5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/6/04 and the certified translations of the foreign priority documents filed 3/3/04 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
- 6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Holly Rickman whose telephone number is (571) 272-1514. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul J. Thibodeau can be reached on (571) 272-1516. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Holly Club Holly Rickman Primary Examiner Art Unit 1773

hcr March 22, 2004